THIS IS THE <u>BEGINNING</u> OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE # 3484



PEGETVED COMMISSION 2018 OCT 15 AM 11: 54

October 15, 2018

### **MEMORANDUM**

SENSITIVE

TO:

The Commission

THROUGH:

Alec Palmer At 101 959H

Staff Director

FROM:

Patricia C. Orrock PCO

**Chief Compliance Officer** 

Debbie Chacona No for DC

Assistant Staff Director Reports Analysis Division

BY:

Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly

Reports Analysis Division

Compliance Branch

SUBJECT:

Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report

(Arizona and Florida) for the Administrative Fine Program

Attached is a list of political committees and their treasurers who failed to timely file the 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report for the Arizona and Florida Primary Elections in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The 12 Day Pre-Primary Report was due on August 16, 2018 and the Primary Elections were held on August 28, 2018.

The committees listed on the attached RTB Circulation Report failed to file the election sensitive report by the required due date. Election sensitive reports filed more than four days prior to the election are considered late, and reports not filed more than four days prior to the election are considered not filed. In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties for reports at 11 CFR § 111.43, the committees should be assessed the civil money penalties highlighted on the attached circulation report.

An explanation of the civil money penalty calculation for the committee that failed to file the report is outlined below:

The committee (AF 3484) represents a candidate that participated in the 2018 Primary in Florida's House Race. The committee was required to file a 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (12P) covering July 1, 2018 through August 8, 2018 (39 days). In order to determine the civil money penalty, an estimated level of activity was calculated using a per diem average by

multiplying the previous activity reported for the 2017-2018 election cycle (\$111,420) by 21.55% (the number of days required in 12P (39) divided by the number of days included in the Committee's 2017-2018 election cycle reports (181)).

### Recommendation

- 1. Find reason to believe that the political committees and their treasurers, in their official capacity, listed on the RTB Circulation Report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalties would be the amounts indicated on the RTB Circulation Report.
- 2. Send the appropriate letters.

# Federal Election Commission Reason to Believe Circulation Report 2018 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 08/16/2018 AUTH (FL, AZ)

AF#	AF#   Committee	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	à	Threshold PV Receipt Date Days Late	Days Late	POA	RTB Penalty
2484	2484 COUREATES	ANGIE CHIRINO FOR	Cividino	JORGE	6444 420	•		Not Eiled	C24 044 (act)	. 61 200
5	20000	CONGRESS	ANGIE CITINING	MIRABENT	02+;111¢	>			מפשלו ו השל	002,14
2405	3405 000637454	DEEDRA 2018 FOR US		MARLENE	£400 4E7	•	01000000	ď	£97.9E0	0630
201	C000037454	SENATE		BINNION	4192,437	0	0/2/2/2010	0.	900,100	4020

### BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2018	)	
12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Arizona and	)	
Florida) for the Administrative Fine	)	
Program:	)	
ANGIE CHIRINO FOR CONGRESS, and	)	AF# 3484
MIRABENT, JORGE MR. as treasurer;	)	
DEEDRA 2018 FOR US SENATE, and	j.	AF# 3485
BINNION, MARLENE as treasurer;	)	

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Dayna C. Brown, Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on October 18, 2018 the Commission took the following actions on the Reason To Believe Recommendation - 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Arizona and Florida) for the Administrative Fine Program as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated October 15, 2018, on the following committees:

AF#3484 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that ANGIE CHIRINO FOR CONGRESS, and MIRABENT, JORGE MR. in his official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Federal Election Commission Certification for Administrative Fines October 18, 2018

AF#3485 Decided by a vote of 4-0 to: (1) find reason to believe that DEEDRA 2018 FOR US SENATE, and BINNION, MARLENE in her official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the report; (2) send the appropriate letter. Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

October 18, 2018
Date

Dayna C. Brown

Secretary and Clerk of the Commission



October 18, 2018

Jorge Mirabent, in official capacity as Treasurer Angie Chirino for Congress 8210 SW 138th Ave Miami, FL 33183

C00664763 AF#: 3484

Dear Mr. Mirabent:

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file a 12 Day Pre-Primary Report of Receipts and Disbursements in any calendar year during which there is a regularly scheduled election for which the candidate is seeking election or nomination for election. This report, covering the period July 1, 2018 through August 8, 2018, shall be filed no later than August 16, 2018. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Because records at the Commission indicate that you did not file this report prior to four (4) days before the election, the report is considered not filed for the purpose of calculating the civil money penalty. You should file the report if you have not already done so.

The Act permits the FEC to impose civil money penalties for violations of the reporting requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). 52 U.S.C. § 30109g(a)(4). On October 18, 2018, the FEC found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Angie Chirino for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file timely this report on or before August 16, 2018. Based on the FEC's schedules of civil money penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$1,200. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 CFR §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 1. The Commission's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. See http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml. 11 CFR § 111.34. Your payment of \$1,200 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by November 27, 2018, and is based on these factors:

Sensitivity of Report: Election Sensitive

Level of Activity: \$24,011

Number of Days Late: Not Filed

Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 0

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

### 1. If You Choose to Challenge the RTB Finding and/or Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, you must submit a written response to the FEC's Office of Administrative Review, 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Your response must include the AF# (found at the top of page 1 under your committee's identification number) and be received within forty (40) days of the Commission's RTB finding, or November 27, 2018. 11 CFR § 111.35(a). Your written response must include the reason(s) why you are challenging the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, and must include the factual basis supporting the reason(s) and supporting documentation. The FEC strongly encourages that documents be submitted in the form of affidavits or declarations. 11 CFR § 111.36(c).

The FEC will only consider challenges that are based on at least one of three grounds: (1) a factual error in the RTB finding; (2) miscalculation of the calculated civil money penalty by the FEC; or (3) your demonstrated use of best efforts to file in a timely manner when prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond your control. 11 CFR § 111.35(b). In order for a challenge to be considered on the basis of best efforts, you must have filed the required report no later than 24 hours after the end of these reasonably unforeseen circumstances. Id. Examples of circumstances that will be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) a failure of Commission computers or Commission-provided software despite your seeking technical assistance from Commission personnel and resources; (2) a widespread disruption of information transmissions over the Internet that is not caused by a failure of the Commission's or your computer systems or Internet service provider; and (3) severe weather or other disaster-related incident. 11 CFR § 111.35(c). Examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) negligence; (2) delays caused by vendors or contractors; (3) treasurer and staff illness, inexperience or unavailability; (4) committee computer, software, or Internet service provider failures; (5) failure to know filing dates; and (6) failure to use filing software properly. 11 CFR § 111.35(d).

The "failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be deemed a waiver" of your right to present such argument in a petition to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111|38.

If you intend to be represented by counsell please advise the Office of Administrative Review. You should provide, in writing, the name, address and telephone number of your counsel and authorize counsel to receive notifications and communications relating to this challenge and imposition of the calculated civil money penalty.

## 2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Submit a Challenge

If you do not pay the calculated civil money penalty and do not submit a written response, the FEC will assume that the preceding factual allegations are true and make a final determination that Angie Chirino for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty.

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA"), as amended by the Debt Collection

Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 et seq. The FEC may take any and all appropriate action authorized and required by the DCA, as amended, including transfer to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection. 11 CFR § 111.51(a)(2).

3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, follow the payment instructions on page 4 of this letter. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

### NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PÁYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS

4. Partial Payments

If you make a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination.

### 5. Settlement Offers

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including making a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the FEC in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(2). Unless you notify the FEC in writing that you wish the matter to be made public, it will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) until it is placed on the public record at the conclusion of this matter in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.42.

As noted earlier, you may obtain additional information on the FEC's administrative fine program, including the final regulations, on the FEC's website at http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact Ben Holly in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1660) or (202) 694-1660.

On behalf of the Commission,

Caroni C. Hunt

Caroline C. Hunter

Chair

### ADMINISTRATIVE FINE REMITTANCE & PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$1,200 for the 2018 Pre-Primary Report.

You may remit payment by ACH withdrawal from your bank account, or by debit or credit card through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online collections. Visit www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form.

This penalty may also be paid by check or money order, made payable to the Federal Election Commission. It should be sent by mail to:

Federal Election Commission P.O. Box 979058 St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

If you choose to send your payment by courier or overnight delivery, please send to:

U.S. Bank - Government Lockbox FEC #979058 1005 Convention Plaza Attn: Government Lockbox, SL-MO-C2GL St. Louis, MO 63101

### **PAYMENTS BY PERSONAL CHECK**

Personal checks will be converted into electronic funds transfers (EFTS). Your account will be electronically debited for the amount on your check, usually within 24 hours, and the debit will appear on your regular statement. We will destroy your original check and keep a copy of it. In case the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in lieu of the original check. Should the EFT not be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer twice.

### PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THE PORTION BELOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT

FOR: Angie Chirino for Congress

FEC ID#: C00664763

AF#: 3484

PAYMENT DUE DATE: November 27, 2018

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$1,200

August 29, 2019

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

The Commission

THROUGH:

Nec Palmer 🔊 🕍 🖟

Staff Director (

FROM:

Patricia C. Orrock

Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona DC
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY:

KDR Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly

Reports Analysis Division

Compliance Branch

SUBJECT:

Administrative Fine Program - Final Determination Recommendation for the

2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Arizona and Florida)

Attached are two lists of political committees and their treasurers against which the Commission has found reason to believe (RTB) and assessed proposed civil money penalties calculated at RTB for failure to file or failure to timely file the 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report. The first list represents a committee that has paid the civil money penalty and the second list represents a committee that has not paid the civil money penalty. The committee that has not paid has been given at least forty (40) days from the date of the Commission's RTB finding to remit payment.

In accordance with 11 CFR § 111.34 and 11 CFR § 111.40, the Commission shall send a final determination notice to those respondents that have either paid or not paid the civil money penalty.

For your information, one (1) committee disclosed a level of activity after the RTB finding, which would result in a lowered civil money penalty. An overview of this case has been provided below.

Angie Chirino for Congress (AF 3484) disclosed no activity after the RTB finding (previously estimated to be \$24,011), which would result in no civil money penalty (fine previously assessed to be \$1,200).

### **RAD Recommendation**

- (1) Make a final determination that the political committee and its treasurer, in her official capacity, listed on the attached report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated.
- (2) Make a final determination that the political committee and its treasurer, in his official capacity, listed on the attached report with no activity, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and will not be assessed a civil money penalty.
- (3) Send the appropriate letters.

# Federal Election Commission FD Circulation Report Fine Paid 2018 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 08/16/2018 AUTH(FL, AZ)

_													
AF#	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Committee	Treasurer	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	PV	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	Final Money	Date Paid	Amount
			OI OI							l	Penalty		Paid
3485	DEEDRA 2018 FOR US SENATE	DEEDRA ABBOUD	C00637454	MARLENE BINNION	08/22/2018	6	\$37;358	0	10/18/2018	\$630	\$630	11/28/2018	\$630

19092725618

# Federal Election Commission FD Circulation Report Fine Not Paid 2018 PRE-PRIMARY Election Sensitive 08/16/2018 AUTH(FL, AZ)

AF#		Candidate Name	Committee	Treasurer :	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	PV	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	Days Since RTB	FD Penalty
3484	ANGIE CHIRINO FOR CONGRESS	ANGIE CHIRINO	C00864763	JORGE MIRABENT		Not Filed	\$0	0	10/18/2018	\$1,200	315	NONE

### BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Administrative Fine Program - Final Determination Recommendation for the 2018 12 Day Pre-Primary Report (Florida) Angie Chirino for Congress and Jorge Mirabent, as treasurer

### CERTIFICATION

- I, Laura E. Sinram, Acting Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on September 03, 2019, the Commission decided by a vote of 4-0 to take the following actions in AF 3484:
  - 1. Make a final determination that Angie Chirino for Congress and Jorge Mirabent, in his official capacity as treasurer, listed on the attached report with no activity, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and will not be assessed a civil money penalty.
  - 2. Send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Hunter, Petersen, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

Laura E. Sinram

Acting Secretary and Clerk of the

Commission



August 30, 2019

Jorge Mirabent, in official capacity as Treasurer Angie Chirino for Congress 8210 SW 138<sup>th</sup> Ave Miami, FL 33183

C00664763 AF#: 3484

Dear Mr. Mirabent:

On October 18, 2018, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Angie Chirino for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for filing late or failing to file the 2018 Pre-Primary Report. By letter dated October 18, 2018, the Commission notified you of the RTB finding and the preliminary civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage to be \$1,200 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43. Please note that you must file the 2018 Pre-Primary Report in the appropriate format if you have not already done so for your report to be considered filed.

Since that time, the amount of the civil money penalty has been changed to reflect the actual level of activity disclosed in the miscellaneous document dated March 25, 2019. The FEC made a final determination on August 30, 2019, that Angie Chirino for Congress and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a), assessed no civil money penalty in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.43, and voted to close the file.

The confidentiality provisions at 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. Pursuant to 11 CFR §§ 111.42(b) and 111.20(c), the file will be placed on the public record within thirty (30) days from the date of this notification.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ben Holly on our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

On behalf of the Commission,

Ellen L. Weintraub

Chair

THIS IS THE END OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE # 3484